

629 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

629 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

STATIONS

Howard Field (later, AFB), CZ, 15 Jul 1947-16 Mar 1948

Alexandria AFB (later England AFB), LA, 1 Nov 1953-9 Nov 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col R. J. Ruick

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 22 November, Tactical Air Command transferred the 629th Air Control and Warning Squadron (629 ACWS) to USAFE. In turn, USAFE based the unit at Campoformido. Arriving at the port of Livorno on Thanksgiving Day 1954, the 629 ACWS was the first Air Force unit stationed in Italy since the withdrawal of United States Army Air Forces units after WWII. The squadron

temporarily billeted in today's Area 2 until their facilities were completed at Campofornido. Using the call sign "Charlie," the squadron operated search radars and a target directing post, provided ground control and approach services to aircraft flying into Aeroporto Pagliano e Gori, and trained the Aeronautica Militaire in the maintenance and operation of the equipment. In September 1957, with the Italian personnel fully trained, the 629th turned its equipment over to the Aeronautica Militaire and inactivated. Today, the Italian controllers still use the call sign "Pedro." as they did in the 1950's.

Two months after the 629th arrived in Italy, on 15 February 1955, USAFE designated and activated "Aviano Airfield #1" to support NATO-committed rotational units from Tactical Air Command. The next day, 16 February 1955, the 7207th Air Base Squadron moved from Giebelstadt AB, Federal Republic of Germany, to Aviano Airfield #1. The 7207th, consisting of personnel from Detachment 1, Seventeenth Air Force (located at Udine) and some personnel from the 629 ACWS, served as the base's first USAF host unit.



(USAF photo)

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *Alexandria AFB, LA, 366 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954